

C H E S T E R

R A D I O S O C I E T Y

Newsletter. Number 8 WINTER 84



## J.O.T.A

Picture left: Radio Society member Peter Massey G4YCA operating the 1984 Scout JOTA station at Chester Oldfield Scout HQ in Vicars Cross, looking on are Phil Evans, Paul Williams, Peter Warne, Stephen Gee, Simon Wood and Kevin Gee.

British Telecom provided some technical support.... literally, by loaning an aerial system and a small mobile office for the 2m station, more details inside.

## EDITORIAL

Well here we are folks, at long last the 268th edition of the Chester Club newsletter. But seriously though this is the first edition since December 83, partly due to a lack of material during the new year, and also due to the fact that the production team has been moving house....

Most of my summer has been spent putting a disorderly house in order, much decorating etc, erecting of aereals, fitting of kitchens and general domestic chores, also with expanding business interests my time has not been my own, this would seem to be the way of things to come so I will appologise in advance for the non appearance of the next ed. (Summer 84) maybe I will catch up by this time next year. My appologies also to our advertisers as some copy for ad's has been waiting for ages.

Much of the material forwarded for inclusion during the Summer is now a little outdated so to avoid the risk of boring too many of you I will shorten some items to just include the important points, the shorter items have been put together on the news page, I must take this opportunity to thank Derek Brandon for his comment on French operating techniques and his experiences whilst on holiday over there, best of all the whole piece was ready typed, ta! Derek.



# News Bulletin

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Chester Area RSGB Representative.

This post has recently changed hands, as you may remember Mr Tony Cooper G3TKD has been local rep for the last few years, however from mid August this year the post has been taken over by Mr Geoff Morris G1ATZ (usually GW1ATZ as he is based in Connah's Quay) Geoff can be contacted direct at QTHR or quite often on 70 cms (GB3CR) .

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Rugby Club Subscriptions were due in September, once again can I remind all Radio Club members that wish to use the BAR that membership of the RUFC as a social member is essential, by ignoring this rule the Society is breaching our agreement with the RUFC.

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Recently acquired by the Society, two items have been purchased by the Club in the past few weeks, firstly a dummy load to assist in tuning up the HF rig used at the HQ station. Secondly, after a long period of storage at the RUFC, the large green tent used by the Club for contests, barb-b-cues etc had to be moved in a hurry, when the Rugby Club needed the space. Hurried negotiations with the owner of the tent, Mr Peter Jones G3PYU, resulted with the complete outfit being offered to the Society at a very reasonable price, needless to say, the purchase was made immediately and provision for storing it was made soon after. It is to be hoped that good use can be made of the tent for many years to come.

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Photo: The survivors of VHF NFD 1984 from left to right, G6IRW, Viv(XYL, EZO),

G4EZO, Pat  
(YL, JMF),  
G4JMF, G3EWZ,  
G80JQ, G8AWS,  
Roger Booth,  
G6IFA.

Pic: G8ICT.

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Club members manning the HF SSB field day station had the pleasure of operating the JRC NRD 515 range of equipment and the JST 100 Receiver for the duration of the contest, courtesy of Mr Harry James of Stephens-James Ltd, who kindly loaned the Club station several items of gear including a linear amplifier, for use in the contest, which this year was not beset with any problems. All in all a good weekend was had by those who attended, and many contacts were made.

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Copies of the revised Constitution will be available on payment of next years subscription ( Jan 85 ).



### Waverton / Christleton Fun Run.

This was the third annual fun run between the two villages, the event was held on the evening of Tuesday July 3rd, which would normally have been a committee night so it was decided to hold an impromptu committee meeting after the race at the Christleton Cricket Club.

At 6:30 we all arrived at Christleton Village Green, quickly moving off to our prearranged points around the route: G6CIX at Plough Lane cross roads, G4EZO/G8ICT at the Smithy, G3EWZ at the Village Green, G4JMF at the Pond, and G8ZRE at the Cricket Club.

The start was 7:00 at Waverton Sports Ground with G6IFA acting as official time keeper and pacecar, we were all in position by 6:45, and we were soon aware that there were some 500 competitors at the start varying in age from 4 to 80. Dave ZRE was parked near to the P.A. van and the operator decided that all he needed to do was to put his microphone by the 2mtr rig speaker in Dave's car and then leave it to us.

The winner completed the race in 11 minutes?? and 9 secs with the last competitor arriving 28 mins after the start, we finally cleared the channel by 7:28 leaving it clear for the Manchester morse transmission (145.275).

The committee meeting then commenced in the rather crowded clubhouse at Christleton Cricket Club, later transferring to our own club. Finally we have received thanks from both the Christleton and Waverton village Fete Committees for a thoroughly professional communications job, and for an entertaining commentary during the race..

G6IFA

### Fred's Swim.

Saturday July 14. 6:15 AM. G4EZO and G6IFA are making their way through the early morning mists to Aldford on the outskirts of Chester, to meet up with members of the Chester Grosvenor Round Table and "Fred". Their aim, to meet at the Aldford Arms for a pre swim briefing (confused? so was I, read on. Ed ) G6IFA was to be mobile on the river with G4EZO stationed at the Bandstand on the Groves in Chester, G6IFA was also to be the official time keeper and starter for a six and a half mile swim along the River Dee from Aldford to Chester.

Fred was making the swim for charity, namely the Chester Laser appeal, if successful he would raise around £2000 for the appeal.

Fred went over the side at 7:45 and completed the distance in 3h 24 mins. The water was extremely cold, only 4°C so Fred fortified himself with hot soup and mars bars on the way (have you ever tried to drink soup whilst swimming? ). At the finish Fred was greeted by the Mayor of Chester and other local dignitaries including the Town Crier and a "Mermaid" whom G4EZO was able to describe in intimate detail...well it was a cold morning!!!!

Both Alan EZO and Dave IFA had a tremendous morning aiding Fred with his swim, which was both brave and courageous, he has our absolute admiration.

The radio gear used was: on board a 16 foot cabin cruiser, an FDK700EX into a 7/8 whip, and at the finish an FT225RD with 5/8 mag mount all fitted onto EZO's car.

\*\*\*\*\* Apologies to Fred but his full name was not given in the copy that was presented for inclusion, Ed.

### 25th Oldfield Scouts Camp at Corwen.

Chester Oldfield Scouts invited the Club to visit their annual camp at Corwen in North Wales to set up a radio station during the weekend 28-29th July. Peter G4YCA operated his FT757 into an inverted V dipole elevated to 30 feet on a "pump up mast". The antenna and mast were provided by G4JMF and G8ICT. Surprisingly the results were pretty good and several of the Scouts were able to gain their Communications Badges by logging the stations worked. Dave G6IFA operated 2mtrs FM mainly through GB3MP to show the Scouts the other side of Amateur technique.

/over.



The following Friday 3rd Aug, Dave returned for the Scouts last night which was to be a camp fire, some logging was carried out by Scouts this time on 2mtr SSB as well as FM, meanwhile the preparations for the camp-fire were going ahead, at the appointed time the van was despatched to Corwen to collect 50 portions of Fish n Chips, arriving back just in time to witness a deluge, sending everyone diving under canvas to eat their chips as they sank into the quagmire....the rain continued to pour down.

Despite the extremes of weather both Peter and Dave had an enjoyable time and say look what the other members of the Club missed by not attending, at least we did not let the Scouts down.

G6IFA.



Photo:

Do it in style!! Dave G6IFA and Alan G6JGL with their respective Wives and family getting stuck in at the Club's Autumn bar-b-que held at RUFC.

Pic: G8ICT.

#### The Club and the Media.

When organising any event for the Society the biggest problem is letting the members and prospective members / visitors know what is going on, to this end Dave Hewitt G8ZRE has become an honorary Press Relations Officer by providing the local Papers and Radio Companies with details in advance.

Further to this Dave also keeps the GB2RS Newslane, Rad Com and Practical Wireless informed of what is going on. So dont forget to listen at 11:00 PM on S21 every Sunday, and check the "whats on" page in the radio mags, if you have anything for Dave to include get the details over early to avoid the early press dates of most mags etc.

This newsletter is produced every now and then by G8ICT. Any items for inclusion should be given to any committee member as they arrise. ICT was assisted on this edition by Derek Brandon G4UXD, Dave Ollerhead G4JMF, Dave Hicks G6IFA and members of the Committee. Complaints about the content or spelling will be taken as volunteering to produce the next issue!! Finally have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

73's Chris, G8ICT.



# -GB2COS-

Jamboree on the Air.

During the weekend 20/21 Oct the Society once again provided a "Radio Station" for the 25th Chester Scout Group, to enable them to take part in the annual international Jamboree on the Air. The station was erected at the Scout HQ in Vicars Cross, the HF side using a small room off the main hall, the rig used was the Club's TS520s feeding a trapped dipole antenna mounted on a 30' pump up mast, stations worked included VO1KM, CT1DEJ, YU3SA and IV3IEU amongst around 50 others.

The VHF station was set up in a mobile office/workshop caravan, kindly loaned by British Telecom, this is normally kept for use in emergencies, but due to the good efforts of Dave Hewitt G8ZRE and Dave Duckett at the BT depot in town was made available to us for the weekend. The VHF station was made up from a range of equipment, with aerials mounted on another pump up mast. Club chairman Alan Warne brought along his amateur TV gear and pictures were exchanged with several local groups, the results of which were recorded on video tape for future viewing. Thanks to Arthur the Scout Leader and all his helpers for the many cups of tea and sandwiches, also to the Scouts for logging.

Photo: A group of Scouts keep a listening watch on the bands using their AR88D rigged up in the main hall. Pic: Local Press.



Hello from the  
**25th Chester  
Scout Troop**

Group Scout Leader  
22 Langport Drive  
Vicars Cross  
Chester

British  
**TELECOM**

*Now that HF conditions are suffering from the solar cycle decline, keep in touch with your VK/ZL colleagues by phone!*

*Choose your ideal phone from the INPHONE Shop, St John Street, Chester (opposite the Head Post Office).*

*Prices start as low as £29.95 for a keypad telephone with last number repeat.*

*Pop in and see us - we have the ideal phone to match your rig!*

British  
**TELECOM**  
Chester and North Wales

**APPROVED** for use  
with telecommunication systems  
run by British Telecommunications  
in accordance with the conditions  
in the instructions for use.



## Ça plan pour moi!

"Tell me," said Roger G8GWX, "You've taken a radio to France... er... how do you go about getting a licence?". I asked him what he wanted one for, since as near as dammit there aren't any amateurs in France, but he insisted so, one holiday, a 12 quid licence and four repeater QSO's later he reluctantly admitted that I was right.

Jean (G4WXL) and I have taken the rigs to France twice and, though it's not quite so bad as I've indicated, France is under-populated generally and even more so as far as radio amateurs are concerned. You can call "CQ" all day on 145.500 and no-one will answer, most FM QSO's taking place on repeaters. Many of these are extremely well situated, like F28THF at 1815 metres (about 5990 feet) on a mountain near Clermont Ferrand. They make GB3MP look like a 2m hand-held by comparison! Mind you, the fact that half of them use non-standard frequencies doesn't help.

VHF operation on sidebands is not much different, except that with no repeaters you mostly have no-one to contact unless there is a lift on. That is probably why so many French operators sport enormous antenna arrays! You can hold a QSO as long as you like on 144.300 and not be asked to QSY. The situation is really bad in the mountainous regions of the South-East. One might think therefore that there would be a lot of HF operators, but there seem not to be. F0HVU/P (ie. us) operated the FT707 on the campsites using wire dipoles, but QSOs with the natives were infrequent despite an adequate command of French. Strangely, G-land was particularly difficult to contact on 7MHz, though we did succeed in a QSO to Howell G3ATZ and Dave G4JMF, after several tries. There proved to be something special about operating /P drenched in sun with mike in one hand and bottle of Cotes du Rhone in the other!

We have been very fortunate to meet some really friendly amateurs. First, we met Henri, F3KW, in 1983. It was interesting how it happened. We were in Macon (South-East France) chatting to some English F0's via the Geneva repeater HB9G and explaining that we were going to Beajolais to buy wine. "Break break, mes ami Anglais!". Mon Dieu, I thought, what now? F3KW introduced himself and said that he was in the area and would like meet us and go with us to buy wine. You never know what you're going to meet, do you? Henri turned out to be an aristocratic gentleman of about 65 years, very well presented with an excellent command of American English, and a "negociant" (expert in buying and selling wine) to boot! Not to mention an "old timer" of great repute.

He first took us to his Chateau (no kidding!) where we inspected his installation and antennas. The list would take too long to describe, but suffice it to say that it was the best of everything. His original shack was also shown to us and it was just like stepping into the past. The enormous, old AM transmitter with massive power supply and modulation unit, and old QSL cards all over the walls would form a fine exhibit in the Wireless museum! However, no way could you get away with



several monoband 5 element Yagis in the same way in England! It seems that they haven't heard of planning permission in France, and as long as you don't wipe someone's telly out, no-one seems to care. Henri complained that the bands are getting too crowded in France, there now being more than 50 amateurs within a 25 mile radius of Macon (!!!!!)

Later he took us on a tour of the best "particuliers" (private growers) in the region and I can assure you that THAT was the way to go wine tasting! What a gold mine we'd found. That was last year but this year we were invited to a very regal dinner at Henri's. I really will have to learn not to pick my nose into the soup!

Last year, while playing VHF DX from a pointed 1500ft. mountain with a road right to the top, we were called by Thierry F6HLD who arranged a "visu" (eyeball?) at our camp that night. This led to a barbecue for him and his wife and dinner for us at their house next day. Thierry turned out to be a very keen VHF operator, using 20 metres only for arranging EME and MS skeds. This year we were invited back and met the rest of Thierry's team... F6BSJ Jean-Mari, F6GGI Bernard and F80P George. What a lively bunch, and how they can organise a "soiree"! We thought the wine and food would never end!

One day we went to see F6BSJ's antennae. Wow! 12 by 16 element 2m Tonna's for EME and MS, masthead pre-amp and 1Kw to the top. I'd seen them in photos, but the real thing was mind-blowing. We were not able to run EME because the moon was at apogee and nearly in line with the sun (the worst possible combination), but Jean-Mari played us some fine, impressive tapes of both CW and J3E EME contacts. Perhaps next year!

Thierry also had an impressive array with 4 x 16 ele Tonnas for 144 with 1kW in, 4 x 21 ele Yagis for 432 with 400W in and 4 x 28 ele for 23cm with 100W into the antenna. Every single thing except the antennas, 2m and 70cm rigs was home-brew, the same being true for F6BSJ's gear.

I think it's worth mentioning the attitude of the established amateurs to new licencees. They are RESPECTED and ADMIRER greatly. We were told that the exam now is quite difficult and that anyone who passes it DESERVES a licence. J'espere!

One very great difficulty we had was in convincing the populus that we were not CB'ers, as they are called. It was an almost impossible task. To the French, the terms Amateur, Radio Amateur, Amateur Radio and CB are synonymous. Some lengthy tutorials on frequency allocations etc were not uncommon, especially when properly lubricated!

Finally I must mention the VHF DX'ers paradise which we found: a 6000ft conical mountain surrounded by lowlands and with a 380 km view and a road over the top (literally). Two hours operating from Mt. Ventoux with 100W into a 13 element beam produced.... ONE contact! QED.

73 Derek G4UXD



# GM/MM

BY G4JMF.

On the 8th of September this year, a small party of club members made their way up to Tarbert on the Mull of Kintyre to start a boating holiday.

They were: Howell G3ATZ(Chief Steward), Paul G3TZO(Captain), Dave G4JMF(1st Officer/Navigator), and Pat, Dave's YL and cook/deckhand. The chartered craft was a twin engined 37' Princess cruiser which was just large enough to accommodate four people in comfort.

Upon arrival stores were taken aboard both solid and liquid (would you believe solid!!) and of course the radio equipment, which had to be smuggled aboard due to the fact that it's installation would require some mods to the boat's electrical system, therefore it was felt that the less the boat owner knew about it the better. Dave's radio equipment was used and consisted of an Yaesu FT901DM driving a Cushcraft 18V base loaded aerial via an FC102 Atu, an FT225RD was also carried for 2mtr operation through a Halo aerial which together with the 18V vertical was mounted on the flying bridge. To complete the station a Trio R2000 HF/VHF receiver was used for general listening, this used a wire aerial fitted up in the superstructure. Howell's TS120 was taken as a standby set. The call sign used was GM3TZO/MM.

We sailed from Tarbert on Sunday afternoon and headed for Rothesay on the island of Bute, where all the radio gear was fitted, a short time after this a familiar voice hailed us from across the quay, turning out to be John the owner of the boat, staring at the aerials and muttering expletives, he came aboard, two members of the crew who shall remain nameless fled below. However after being informed of the purpose of the radio equipment he didn't seem to mind and became quite interested so all was well.

We set off next morning for Campbelltown, quite a long voyage, but were destined not to make it, after about two hours of cruising through quite a heavy quater sea, the port engine failed, to be followed a few minutes later by the starboard engine. As the boat did not carry marine radio, a call was put out on the local 2mtr repeater, at the third call an answer was received and a message passed to the coastguard. Luckily whilst this was going on, the engines were successfully restarted and course changed to take us into Troon, about 1½ hours away. the coastguard was informed of this and was there to meet us upon our arrival .

## Photo Missing

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Picture: Paul Holland at the controls in the "Radio Cabin" as GM3TZO/MM

/over.



It seems that due to the boat rolling in the heavy weather, sediment from both fuel tanks had been drawn into the filters, and had partially blocked them, also, upon inspection by the local boatyard, a faulty lift pump was discovered.

We therefore spent two days in Troon marina waiting for spare parts and could not use the radio for fear of discharging the batteries and leaving us without power to restart the engines.

After this set back we had no other problems with the boat and we enjoyed the rest of the holiday cruising the area and mooring up at a different location every evening. Radio conditions on the whole were very poor, although we did manage to keep our skeds on 40m with Harry G3MCN and Bob GM4CMI, a few times the signals were quite a lot down on normal. One or two Europeans were worked on 20m but no DX contacts were made at all, when under way VHF was a lot easier to manage than HF due to the high level of engine noise in the saloon, also the HF rig was only developing around 50 watts due to the voltage drop along the 12 volt feeder cables as these had to be routed down to the engine room.

When operating at sea it must be remembered that there are periods of radio silence to be observed for 3 mins at quarter past and quarter to the hour, and that transmissions on frequencies below 7000 kHz are not permitted, also /mm may only be used when the vessel is under way, at all other times the suffix /MA is to be used.

The party arrived back in Chester on Saturday 15 Sept after a most enjoyable and different (wet) holiday.

G4JMF.

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#### Forthcoming Programme.

##### November.

13th Informal Meeting, natter night/club HF rig available.

20th Peter Jones G2JT Aerial Theory and Practice. \*\*Change of venue this meeting will be held at Chester Colledge, off Cheyney Rd, in the Art Block lecture theatre (ground floor) (SERT) 7:30pm.

27th Ron Stone GW3YDX Planning for Aerials / Contest Management

##### December.

4th Committee Night.

11th Constructional Contest, prizes in two classes, open to any home built electronic gear.

18th Christmas Meeting, held in the lounge bar, buffet available by ticket only at £2 per head, all welcome, bring the YL/XYL along, Sherry and Mince pies etc.

##### January.

8th Annual General Meeting. Any points to be raised should be forwarded in writing as soon as poss, preferably by mid Dec. to the secretary for inclusion in the agenda...7:30 start.

15th Weather Sattelites, lecture.

Programme for 1985 to be arranged by the new Committee.

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FOR SALE: BBC model B morse tuition programs featuring: random letters, numbers & words from a dictionary of 500 in store, (or a mixture, as desired); 100 real plain-language morse tests; 70 CW abbreviations/ punctuations; send the output to an internal speaker, an external oscillator or let it key your rig; morse keyboard (it sends as you type); write, save and replay of your own texts; choice of speeds; plus other features too complicated to explain here! Program to calculate QRA's thrown in for free, plus instructions for transfer to disc. Learn & pass really fast! 4.95

From D.Brandon (G4UXD)

1, Woodlands Rd.,

Saltney,

Chester CH4 8LB (0244 673563)

or from TMP(SMC), Buckley.







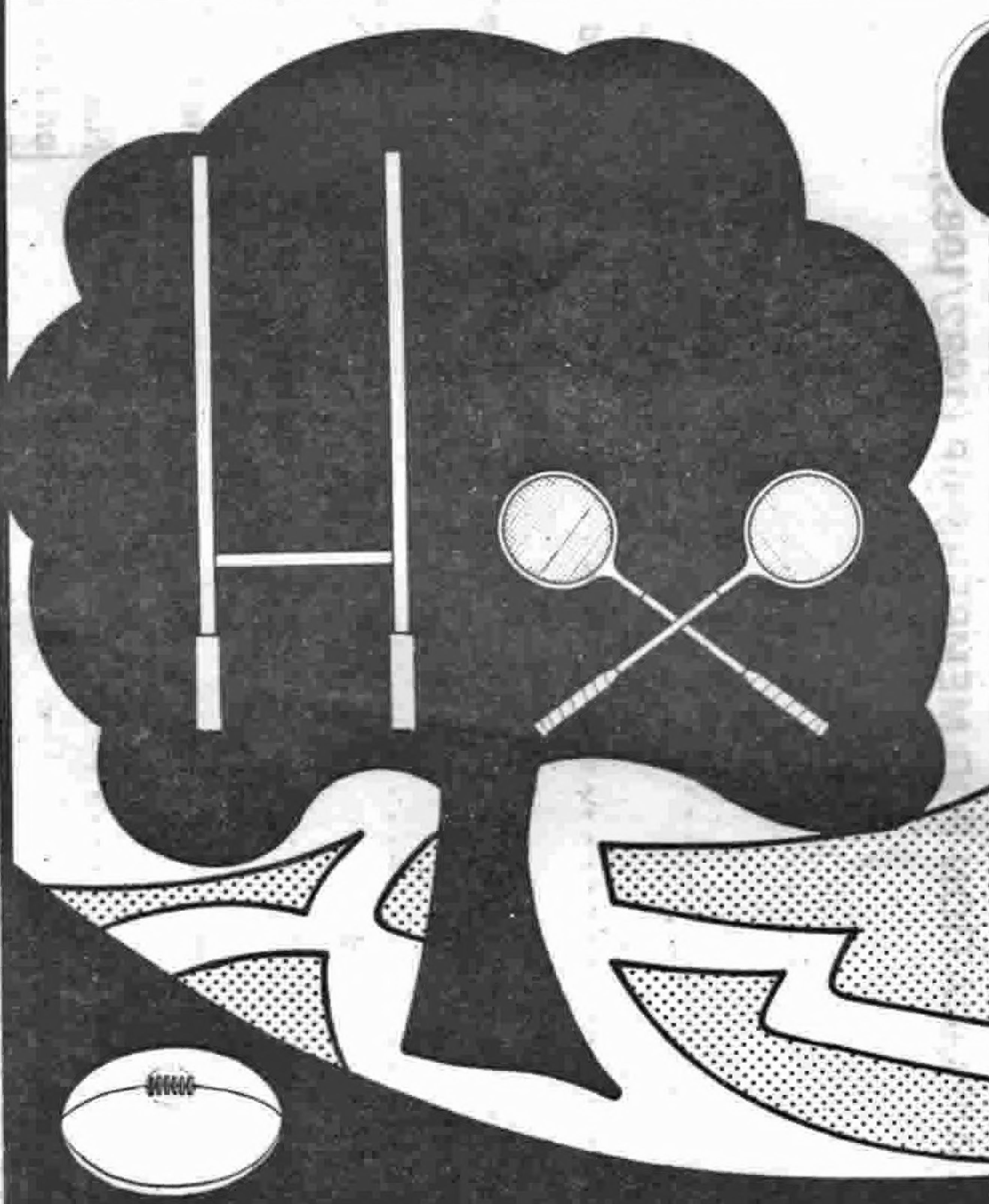
For Sale .Icom IC280E 2mtr mobile FM, 1w/10w, 3 memory channels, power cord mobile mounting bracket, £175. G8ZRE QTHR or Tel:316673.

## FREE SPACE TO LET

Wanted . Heavy Duty 24 volt Generator/Dynamo must be capable of at least 60-80 amps, e.g old style double decker bus dynamo, W.H.Y. G8ICT QTHR or Tel Mold 4780.

For Sale/Hire, Professional Stage Lighting, systems up to 100kw for hire, Gamma, Genie, Pulsar etc, custom flight'building service. Phone for details: PRISM LIGHTING Hampton Heath 501.

For Sale. Heavy duty cylindrical laminated wooden mast, sectional construction, military type, believed to be 30' high, yours for a £10 donation to the Club, buyer must collect, further details: Roger Booth 13 kingsley Rd, Boughton Hth, Chester.



# CHESTER R.U.F.C.

If you think that a Rugby Club is somewhere just to enjoy a game, why not take a look at the wider horizons of a big bright club — here, in Chester.

Membership offers you a complete social focal point, just a stones throw from town, in a picturesque setting.

Somewhere to enjoy the game, of course, but also somewhere to relax and participate in an active social calendar.

The CHESTER AND DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY meets on Tuesdays at 8:00pm, except for the first Tuesday in each month, which is Committee night. The Society meets at Chester Rugby Union Football Club at Hare Lane, Vicars Cross, Chester. Further details from A.WARNE G4EZO. Tel Chester 40055.

138 CHRIS G8ICT.